

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraphs starting at page 3, line 12, and ending on page 3, line 29, with the following:

~~The invention relates to the combination of features as described in claim 1.~~ A target assembly comprising a central body in a rotatable target tube is ~~claimed~~ described. In the central body, at least one of the functionalities, which in the prior art are incorporated into the end-block, is now implemented inside the target tube. These functionalities are at least one of the following:

- (1) a bearing system for rotatably supporting the tube by the central body;
- (2) a drive means for rotating the tube;
- (3) an electrical contact for electrically connecting the tube to the body;
- (4) at least one rotatable gas-to-coolant seal for supplying and extracting coolant to the tube; and
- (5) at least one rotatable gas-to-vacuum seal for enabling a vacuum outside said tube.

In case the target assembly is used in a magnetron deposition apparatus, a magnet array is obviously understood to be incorporated into the tube as well.

Please replace the paragraphs starting at page 7, line 23, and ending on page 9, line 20, with the following:

In the above the functionalities--of which at least one has to be incorporated inside the target tube--have been discussed separately. Nowadays, combinations of different functionalities can be bought integrated in one package. For example, it is possible to obtain gas-to-vacuum seals in which also bearings are incorporated. Or electrical brushes that are isolated from external liquids, which hence also can be used as gas-to-coolant ~~seal~~ seals. ~~It is clear that these combinations fulfil the requirement also as put forward in claim 1.~~ However, the one combination of gas-to-coolant seal and a gas-to-vacuum seal i.e. a coolant-to-vacuum seal is less preferred, as this is known to cause problems when the seal is not perfect. Such failures may lead to coolant leaking out into the vacuum system resulting in costly replacement of vacuum equipment or costly downtime.

Different In-the-dependent claims, different embodiments of the invention are defined which will now be discussed in more detail.

As a drive means an electrical motor can be used, (~~claim 2~~). This motor is preferably of the fixed axis, rotating drum type, (~~claim 3~~), since this simplifies the mounting of the motor.

As an alternative to an electrical motor, a hydraulic rotary motor is also possible, (~~claim 4~~). More preferred is the use of the circulating coolant as the propellant for this hydraulic motor, thus further simplifying the concept, (~~claim 5~~).

While the above focuses on the target assembly as such, the assembly has also to be fixed to the walls of the sputtering apparatus, (~~independent claims 6 and 7~~). It is not excluded that the whole sputtering apparatus is mounted for example to an access door or lid of the vacuum chamber. The fixation to the apparatus is done by coupling means. These coupling means distinguish themselves from the prior art end-blocks in their simplicity and relative smallness. Indeed the coupling between the central body and the coupling means contains no moving parts: the coupling means have only to keep the stationary part of the central body fixed with respect to the chamber and to provide a stationary feedthrough of electricity for charging the target surface, of coolant and of electricity for the drive means (if needed). In which one of the two coupling means these feedthroughs are organized organised is of course dictated by how the functionalities inside the central body are organized.

By way of non-delimiting example, the electricity to charge the surface can be supplied at the same side where the coolant is supplied while the electricity to energize energise the drive means (if needed) is supplied on the other side.

If the central body is so organized organised that all supply feedthroughs are e.g. available at a first coupling means to the central body, the task of the second coupling means limits itself to holding the central body itself. In such an embodiment the limit (~~claim 7~~) this second coupling can be completely eliminated in case the mechanical strength of the first coupling is sufficient to hold the target assembly in place.

The central body can also be separated into a first central body and a second central body that are mechanically detachable from one another, (~~claim 8~~). In this way both bodies can be inserted separately from one another at both ends of the target tube. The functionalities can be divided between both bodies in the most convenient way, as long as at least one of them is incorporated inside the target tube. The first and the second central bodies body can be mechanically coupled to one another, (~~claim 9~~). This can for example be

realized realised by using the magnet array as the coupling means. These embodiments are also envisaged in the invention. Again coupling means for coupling the first and second central bodies body have to be provided in the magnetron apparatus. (~~claim 10~~). The case where one side of the target assembly holds the tube is also included. (~~claim 11~~).

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 10, line 17, and ending on page 10, line 21, with the following:

In this embodiment all the functionalities as enumerated herein in claim 1 are incorporated inside the target tube. The drive means is an electrical motor. The supply and extraction of the coolant and the charging of the surface is through a first coupling means. The electricity to drive the electrical motor is fed through a second coupling means.